

York Middle School

April 2026

Annual Report to Parents

School Improvement Council Members

Marilyn Milton, Principal

Clay Bryant, Assistant Principal

Sean Cunningham, Assistant Principal

Latoya Benjamin, Assistant Principal

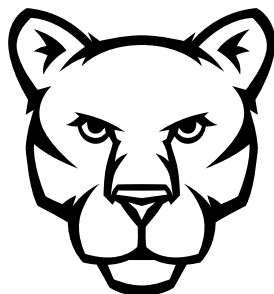
Lashonda Linnen, Chairperson - Parent

Sabrina Colvin- Community Member

Quinn Witte, Parent

Jaime Benfield, Teacher

Mary Gump, Teacher



A big thank you to our SIC members for their diligence in making YMS an amazing school for all stakeholders!

About Our School:

Name: York Middle School (YMS)

Address: 1010 Devinney Rd.

York, SC 29745

Phone: 803-684-5008

Website: www.york.k12.sc.us/yms

Student Enrollment: 769

Grades: 7th and 8th

Mascot: Cougar

Vision

To Learn, Serve and Give as One.

Mission

Our mission is to cultivate a service-oriented community of learners who strive for personal growth and excellence as communicators, collaborators, creators, and critical thinkers.

District & School Goals

Create a challenging and supportive educational environment that ensures readiness for all students.

Create quality opportunities for ongoing learning for students and staff to promote innovation and flexibility.

Build capacity and leadership at every level of the organization

The YMS Cougar Creed



I am here to commit my time and effort to my future.

I will treat myself and others with **respect**.

I am **organized** and prepared to succeed.

I know my **attitude** can change my entire day.

I am **responsible** for my actions and my future.

York Cougars **ROAR** with pride and we **ROAR** as One!



Principal

Marilyn Milton

YORK SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONNECTED AS



Assistant Principals

Clay Bryant

Sean Cunningham

Latoya Benjamin

York Middle School - SIC

At YMS, we know that we only get stronger when families and schools work in unison. Therefore, the SIC goal for the 25-26 school year has been to increase the home-to-school connection by communicating with parents/guardians on a regular basis via phone, email, weekly team newsletters, a monthly school newsletter, and hosting multiple family nights. Because of the positive home/school relationships, YMS had the following celebrations:

- SIC and PTO helped host the Turkey Trot fundraiser event which raised over **\$4,000!!!**
- they also sponsored a February School-wide dance that had over **300 students** attend and it raised over **\$1500** to go towards quarterly student incentives
- PTO helped support over **900 incentives based on Honor Roll and Principal Scholars** for each quarter
- YMS also hosted Lunch Dates for Parents that had over **100 families** sign up to come have lunch with their student!

Overall, the impact of SIC and PTO on a positive school culture has increased dramatically due to these efforts!

This year at York Middle School, we focused on improving our PLC (Professional Learning Community) structure and processes. The PLC process was a vital component of instructional success at York Middle School because it provided teachers with a structured, collaborative space to analyze student data, align instruction, and make intentional decisions that directly impacted learning. Through regular PLC meetings, teams engaged in purposeful planning, built common, rigorous assessments that were standards-aligned, reflected on assessment results, and adjusted instructional strategies to better meet student needs. This shared responsibility for student achievement has strengthened instructional consistency across content areas and promoted a culture of continuous improvement. As a result, teachers were better equipped to identify learning gaps, target interventions, and extend learning opportunities, leading to improved student engagement and academic achievement schoolwide.

York Middle School Points of Pride

Arts & Athletic Excellence

Band and Chorus:

- Earned an Overall Excellent rating at JPA and CPA
- Received 31 Superiors and 9 Excellent Ratings at Solo and Ensemble
- 7 Students made the SCBDA Region Band, 1 Student also made SCBDA All-State Band

Theater:

- took 3 field trips to see live performances
- Large Drama Performance of "How To Get Away with a Murder Mystery" which included 40 cast and crew members

Arts Showcase Night- Hosted first annual Arts Showcase Night that saw 60+ families in attendance. Included performances by the Drama Club, Jazz Band, combined Chorus, and visual artwork from over 100 students

Sports:

- 8th Grade football were co regular season Conference champions
- Softball won YCMSAC Conference Championship.
- Carolina Panthers sponsored Girls Flag Football league for the 2nd year



Instruction & School Culture

- highest Spring to Spring MAP growth for both Reading and Math EVER ACHIEVED
 - 139 students grew 15 or more points in Math
 - 75 students grew 15 or more points in Reading
- 10 students earned the title of PSAT Junior Scholars
- Continued the following Career Initiatives:
 - Lunch with Leaders (600 students attended)
 - 400 8th grade students attended the Career Conference and Be Pro Be Proud Bus
 - 7th and 8th grade Job Shadow Day (125 students participated)
 - 7th grade Junior Achievement Field Trip to Charlotte
- Multiple Grant Winners and National Board Certified Staff members
- FFA Recognitions:
 - FFA Livestock Judging Team placed 2nd in the state among middle schools. Brynn Robbins had the highest individual score of all middle schoolers.
 - FFA Tool ID Team placed 1st in the region among middle schools. Ethan Schmidt had the highest individual score of all middle schoolers.
 - FFA members created Valentines paper flowers and delivered them to a local nursing home.
 - Agriculture students took care of and raised 75 chicks for a local farmer.
 - Agriculture students successfully grew a variety of plants and sold them to the public at our Spring Plant Sale.
 - Five students competed in the Miss Discovery FFA Pageant.
 - Brynn Robbins competed in Creed Speaking (3rd overall) and Amerie VanNostrand competed in Prepared Public Speaking (5th overall).

Principal
Marilyn Milton

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